

## CLAIMS

1. A process for producing iron ore agglomerates comprising agglomerating fine iron ore particles in the presence of a binder system wherein the binder system comprises a binder and an alkali metal silicate and wherein the alkali metal silicate is present in an amount of between 0.0001 to 0.08 percent by weight, based on the total weight of dry iron ore agglomerate, wherein the binder system is free of synthetic polymer.
2. The process of claim 1 wherein the binder is carboxymethyl cellulose.
3. The process of either of claims 1 and 2 wherein the amount of alkali metal silicate is between 0.04 and 0.08 percent by weight, based on the total weight of dry iron ore agglomerate.
4. The process of any one of the preceding claims wherein the alkali metal silicate is sodium silicate.
5. A binder system comprising carboxymethyl cellulose and an alkali metal silicate.